

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
DHA-02 AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 /085 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSPST:CJ
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.
-----060054 043422 /61

R 050209Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049415

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ET

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN MAP REDUCTION

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1190

1. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR ADDIS ON CONSULTATION,
ETHIOPIAN CHARGE MEKBIB GHEBEYEHOU REQUESTED MEETING
WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE WHO RECEIVED HIM
FEBRUARY 26. MEKBIB SOUGHT EXPLANATION FOR ANNOUNCED
MAP REDUCTION.

2. SCHAUFLE REVIEWED PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS,
EMPHASIZING THAT US HAS TRIED TO MAINTAIN GOOD, COOPERA-
TIVE RELATIONS DESPITE REPEATED UNWARRANTED ATTACKS
ON US, E.G. CIA ACCUSATIONS. HE NOTED THAT OUR
ABILITY TO CONTINUE ON THIS COURSE HAS BEEN COMPLICATED
BY (A) CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS PLACED ON US, RESULT-
ING IN PART FROM CONCERN OVER SITUATION IN
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ETHIOPIA WITH RESPECT, INTER ALIA, TO HUMAN RIGHTS; AND
(B) OUR DIFFICULTY OF ACCESS TO ETHIOPIAN LEADERSHIP.
SCHAUFLE NOTED THAT WHEN A SENATOR ASKS HOW MANY
TIMES US REPS HAVE SEEN ETHIOPIAN LEADERS AND MUST BE
TOLD FEW OR NONE, DEPARTMENT'S TASK IS COMPLICATED
SINCE SUCH LOW LEVEL OF DIALOGUE IS NOT COMMENSURATE
WITH THE LEVEL OF OUR COOPERATION WITH ETHIOPIA IN

MILITARY AND ECONOMIC FIELDS. MAP REDUCTION IS RESPONSE TO THIS GENERAL SITUATION AS WELL AS TO HEIGHTENED CONCERN OF NEW US ADMINISTRATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.

3. MEKBIB RECALLED THAT ETHIOPIA WAS IN A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION. OVERTHROW OF A DESPOTIC REGIME INEVITABLY INVOLVED EXCESSES, BUT AIM WAS TO BROADEN BENEFITS TO PEOPLE AS A WHOLE WHO NOW ENJOYED MUCH GREATER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION THAN BEFORE REVOLUTION. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT US MUST MAKE CLEAR TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT ITS INTEREST IN A CONTINUED SOLID RELATIONSHIP SINCE PRESS STORIES CRITICAL OF ETHIOPIA AND OTHER INDICATORS, SUCH AS THE MAP REDUCTION, GIVE ETHIOPIANS CAUSE TO QUESTION CONSTANCY OF US.

4. SCHAUFELLE ACKNOWLEDGED WORTHINESS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS OF PRESENT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, MANY OF WHICH WE HAD URGED ITS PREDECESSOR TO ADOPT, IN VAIN. PROBLEM OF ACCESS INHIBITED OUR ABILITY TO MAKE THIS UNDERSTOOD BY EPMG AND INHIBITED AS WELL OUR ABILITY TO PRESENT ASSURANCES ALONG LINES MEKBIB PROPOSED. WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF PROBLEMS FACED BY A GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTING TO REVOLUTIONIZE SOCIETY, BUT THAT CONSCIOUSNESS DOES NOT ALTER THE FACT OF THE DOMESTIC U.S. PERCEPTIONS OF SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA TO WHICH WE MUST RESPOND. SCHAUFELLE CLARIFIED THAT REDUCTION APPLIED ONLY TO MAP MATERIAL, THAT TRAINING PORTION OF MAP REMAINED INTACT, AND THE FMS CREDIT AND CASH SALES STILL AVAILABLE.
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CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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